

DECISION MEMO

Special use authorization reissuance for existing special uses U.S. Forest Service, Chugach National Forest Cordova Ranger District

Background

The USDA Forest Service, Chugach National Forest (CNF) proposed to reissue special use authorizations (“authorizations”) for a variety of existing land uses on the CNF, for new individual terms to replace the existing or expired authorizations. There would be no physical changes to the authorized improvements or activities, other than routine/minor maintenance that may be required in order for the authorized improvements or activities to comply with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization.

Project Location

The project sites are located on National Forest System (NFS) lands within the CNF on the Cordova Ranger Districts. Table 1 below provides the description and location of each special use authorization to be reissued.

Table 1. Chugach NF: Locations of Proposed Special Use Authorization Reissuances

Description of Use(s) & District(s)	General Legal Description	Current Auth ID & Term of Reissuance	Approximate size of authorized area
<u>Schinella, Anthony</u> Isolated Cabin (<i>recreation, maintenance, and improvements</i>) Use Codes: 121	Sec. 24, T16S, R3W, ¼ NW. Cordova.	COR292 5 years	1.05 Acres
<u>Wiese, James</u> Isolated Cabin (<i>recreation, maintenance, and improvements</i>) Use Codes: 121	Sec.24, T16S, R3W, ¼ NW. Cordova	COR302 5 years	.80 Acres

Wolfe, Jacob Isolated Cabin (recreation, maintenance, and improvements) Use Codes:121	Sec. 13, T16S, R3W. Cordova	COR303 5 years	1 Acre
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Decision to Be Implemented

I have decided to implement the project as proposed, approving the issuance of the appropriate special use authorization documents to special use authorization holders for existing improvements and uses. This project is in compliance with both national and CNF Forest Plan goals and directives.

The new special use authorizations will be subject to national standard clauses pursuant to Forest Service policy manual and handbook direction. Additional stipulations based on mitigation measures will be included in the permit to protect the NFS land resources.

In accordance with Forest Service policy, this decision may also apply to the reissuance of any future authorized uses at the approved locations, provided that the environmental analysis documentation is reviewed, and a determination made that the previous analysis and decision are still valid. This review would include consideration of any new information or changed conditions which may warrant a new analysis and decision. (Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, 11.23).

Rationale for Categorically Excluding the Decision

Category of Exclusion

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA). The applicable category of actions is identified in agency procedures as 36 CFR 220.6(e)(15): *Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are not changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization.*

Finding that No Extraordinary Circumstance Exist

Based on information presented in this document and the project record, I have evaluated the resource conditions listed in 36 CFR 220.6(B)(1) and determined there are no extraordinary circumstances related to this project. The following resources were considered:

- Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species;
- Floodplains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds;
- Congressionally designated areas, such as Wilderness, wilderness study areas, or National Recreation Areas;
- Inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas;
- Research Natural Areas;
- American Indian and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites, and
- Archaeological sites and historic properties or areas.

Scoping


This project is listed on the Chugach National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA). An interdisciplinary team of resource specialists reviewed the project to ensure no extraordinary circumstances and no negative environmental impacts.

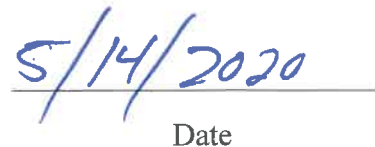
Findings Required By and/or Related to Other Laws and Regulations

The special uses of National Forest land being proposed for reissuance were reviewed for consistency with the Chugach National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (2020), and this decision is consistent with all standards and guidelines within this plan; as well as all other applicable laws and regulations.

Implementation Date and Contact

This decision may be implemented immediately upon execution, and pursuant to 36 CFR 218.23(a), this decision is not subject to appeal. For additional information concerning this decision, contact: Dede Srb, Special Uses Permit Administrator at email: debra.srb@usda.gov , or by phone at 907-424-4726.


STEVEN NAMITZ
Cordova District Ranger
Chugach National Forest


Date

